

How Do You View the Cross?



Despite saying three times “I find no fault in him,” Pilate allowed Jesus to be crucified (John 19:16). John describes the crucifixion scene in four segments, each of which shows a different view of the cross. First, *the sign* shows that some know the truth about the cross of Jesus, but refuse to live it! The inscription above the cross read, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS” (John 19:19), which was probably meant to be an insult to the Jews as well as to Jesus. The chief priests wanted the wording changed to reflect that Jesus only claimed to be the King of the Jews, but Pilate refused to change it! He had every opportunity to do what was right, knowing the truth, but he did not do it. Second, *the soldiers* show that some are oblivious to the significance of the cross (John 19:23-24). The execution of the innocent Son of God to them was “just another day at work.” They were more concerned about the garments of Christ than about the reason He came, but unknowingly to them, they fulfilled prophecy (Psalm 22:18). Third, *the son*, in Jesus’ statement to John concerning the care of His mother, “Woman, behold your son” shows that the cross should change our priorities to what is really important (John 19:25-27). Jesus wanted to make sure His mother was taken care of after His death, which likely means Joseph, His earthly dad, was deceased. Our priorities should be God first, then family. Fourth, *the sayings* show that the cross was deliberately planned and executed (John 19:28-30). “I thirst” shows one of the agonies of crucifixion, yet “for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2). “It is finished” shows that Jesus, with His last breath, declares completion for the very reason He came to this earth—“to give his life a ransom for *(continued below)*”



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 12 will be our next L2L day. We appreciate the adult mentors and those who volunteer to help our young people (and adults) grow spiritually.

Saturday, October 18 will be our monthly youth devo and activity. If you would like to host this or a future youth devo and activity, there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. If you like info on what is involved, please see Brian or Jagie.

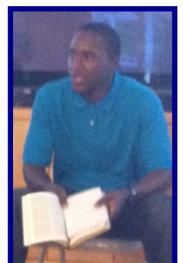
WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Bible Bowl Study, Sundays @ 5:00 p.m.

“Pew Packers,” Sundays @ 5:45 p.m. to brush up on our Bible knowledge. Kids meet on front few pews of the north side of the building. Thanks to David Anderson for helping with this work. Adults are also welcome to participate!

(continued from above) many” (Mark 10:45). How do you view the cross? Do you, like Pilate, know what’s right, but refuse to do it? Are you, like the soldiers, unaffected by the significance of the cross? Do you, like the dialog about the care of Jesus’ mother, have your priorities as God first, family second? Do you, like the final sayings indicate, acknowledge the suffering and death of Christ in your life through obedience to His word? May our view of the cross result in eternal blessings! ❤️ Brian

SPECIAL THANKS to all who made last Saturday’s youth devo and activity a great success. There were at least 36 present from six congregations. Hiram (pictured at right) gave a great lesson on Rehoboam and avoiding his failures.



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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

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WEB PAGES

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It Has A Map

Recently, the Lewisville (TX) church of Christ hosted its annual “Sending Them Off With Prayer” night. During this gathering, the church prays for everyone involved in the beginning of a new school year. This year, the Lewisville church added something new: Bibles were given to all of the children who were entering the first grade. These rising first-graders were called to the front of the building with their parents and were presented with a Bible by the minister, Jeff Jenkins.

Jeff related some of the responses from these first graders: “One of our parents sent me a picture of her little girl in bed the night before her first day of school and she is holding her Bible.” “Another one of our students came up to me during the next church service and said, ‘Mr. Jeff, look, I brought my new Bible!’”

“Another parent sent me the following story about her daughter: ‘Avery was so excited tonight when she received her Bible at church. She quickly noticed it had a map in the back. She looked up at me and said, Mommy, look, it has a map; now I will never be lost.’”

Jeff smiled and thought, “You are right... This Bible is your map so you will never be lost.” The Bible, God’s Word, is our map. It reveals where we are, where we are headed and our desired destination. The Bible reveals that we are lost in sin, and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Yet, the Bible also reveals that God loves us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that we might have forgiveness of our sins and have access to the Way to eternal life in heaven (John 3:16). Jesus is that Way (John 14:6).

The Bible gives us the following directions to reach our proper destination (Heaven): place your faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), repent of sin (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Then, we must continue to follow Heaven’s Road Map for the rest of our lives, being careful not to “veer off course” (1 John 1:7). We must continue to follow that narrow and difficult way which leads to life everlasting (Matthew 7:13-14). “Your Word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). Yes, Avery, God has given us a Map (His Word) so that we will never be lost – if we will read and heed His instructions. Will you?

- by David A. Sargent

“He Feared”

By Hugo McCord

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared (Hebrews 5:7, KJV).

Two of Webster’s definitions of the verb “fear” are:

to feel a painful apprehension of some impending evil; to be afraid of; to dread. “I will fear no evil, for thou art with me” (Psalm 23:4).

to feel reverence for; to have a reverential awe of; to venerate.

Oh! The fervency of Jesus’ prayer struggle: in the garden of Gethsemane, separating himself from his disciples, around midnight of Thursday, April 6, A.D.30, all alone, falling “on his face,” in such “agony” that his “sweat” was like “great drops of blood,” praying “with strong crying and tears, ‘O My Father, if it be possible let this cup [of death] pass away from me,’” and “heard in that he feared.” Certainly Jesus’ fear that caused his prayer to be heard in heaven was not Webster’s first definition (Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:44; Hebrews 5:7).

Only a few hours before, in another prayer, Jesus had spoken to his Father of “the glory which I had with you before the world was” (John 17:5), and that he was looking forward after the cross to regain that glory: “O Father, glorify thou me with the glory which I had with you before the world was.”

God’s law for everyone’s prayer, written by Moses, was “Thou shalt fear (yara’) Jehovah thy God” (Deuteronomy 6:13, ASV), and “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination” (Proverbs 28:9). Since the first definition of fear (“feel a painful apprehension of . . . some impending evil; to be afraid of; to dread”) is unthinkable in Jesus’ relationship with his Father, the second definition is called for (“feel reverence for; to have a reverential awe of; to venerate.”)

Certainly Jesus in all of his life was in “a reverential awe of” his Father, and since worship includes doing “reverence to” God (BGD, 716), we are not surprised that Jesus used the word “worship” (proskuneo) as a correct translation of Moses’ command to “fear” (yara’) Jehovah (Deuteronomy 6:13; Matthew 4:10).

Thus the fear that caused Jesus’ prayer to be heard was worship. As acceptable fear is a feeling (“feel reverence for”), so acceptable worship is a feeling of “reverential awe” toward the God of the universe, an adoration of the “I am because I am” who is “love” (Exodus 3:14, ASV, margin; 1 John 4:8).

The feeling of a “reverential awe” of God, godly fear, that was in Jesus the night his prayer was heard, was not supernatural. It is the same feeling in all ages in everybody whose prayers are heard. And the Bible gives us examples of human beings besides Jesus who were “devout, God-fearing” (eulabeis, BGD, 322) people who fit the description of those who worshiped God “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). Among these were Noah, Simeon, the three thousand baptized on the day of Pentecost, and the “devout” men who buried Stephen (Hebrews 11:7; Luke 2:25; Acts 2:5, 41; 8:2). The writer of the book of Hebrews said that Jesus’ prayer was heard because of his eulabeia, his “fear” (Hebrews 5:7), and he used the same word to describe all Christians (Hebrews 12:28).

However, the fact remains that, though Jesus’ prayer was heard, it was not answered! Though “more than twelve legions [full legion, 6,100] of angels” (Matthew 26:53) stood “at the ready” to answer Jesus’ prayer that God spare him from death, God’s love for all mankind forced him to say no to Jesus’ prayer that night. Similarly, all reverential, God-fearing Christians offer prayers that are heard, but sometimes He who knows best has to say no.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Louise Starks is not doing well. Wanda Turner was sick & unable to attend services Sunday. Rosalind Coleman, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Jacquelin Dopwell & Margaret Coone.

Relatives: Billy Harrison, Bob Kirkland, Wayne Hendrix,
Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton & Louise Starks.

Others: Katelyn Vincent, Bill Carroll, Mary Exum, Chris Exum, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner & Bonnie Hendricks.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 28th: Graham McDonald will be here to give a report on the mission work in Scotland.

Sept. 28th: - There will be a Pot-luck meal after our morning worship service in the fellowship hall. Please prepare enough food for your family and a little extra for our guests.

Oct. 1st - 22nd: - Fall Faith Series at Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. There will be a different speaker every Wednesday evening. See bulletin board for more information.

Oct. 11th: - Hotdog Roast & Sing at the Springhead Church of Christ at 4:00 pm. Singing will begin at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP by Oct. 5th (863) 514-9985. See bulletin board for more information.

Oct. 18th: - Semi-Annual Picnic/Sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow. Orange Street in Auburndale will host. Please bring your favorite dish to share & a chair if you like.

Visitors

Jody Hyde, Mrs. Pamela Martin, Amanda & Ashley Patterson, Mrs. Wanda Powell & Amy. Christian Radford, Alecia Smith & Latraile, Emily Walling.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Several of our members are traveling. Please pray for their safety, and also pray for those who are serving in the military.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Sam Crow
 Fred Rapley **Assist** Kyle Williams

October

Fred Strickland **Table** Jimmy Sweeney
 Jim Turner **Assist** Robert Cooper

Sunday, September 28, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Williams
Prayer Frank Hamby

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer Stacey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer C. J. Grimes
Closing Prayer John McShane
Greeters The Bingle Family
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wed. Oct. 1, 2014

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231

October 5, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Brian Kenyon
Prayer Charles Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Jim Turner
Greeters The Hendrix Family
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. October 8, 2014

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer John McShane

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 31	\$4,660.00
Sep 07	\$4,967.00
Sep 14	\$3,794.01
Sep 21	\$3,979.26
Contribution Average	\$4,497.04
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

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"Pulling Together"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page
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